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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10/730,131 | 12/09/2003 | Darko Pervan | 033462-037 | 3197 |
| 21839 7590 09/20/2007 BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404 | | | EXAMINER KATCHEVES, BASIL S | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3635 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE 09/20/2007 | DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com
debra.hawkins@bipc.com

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/730,131 | Applicant(s) PERVAN, DARKO | |
| | Examiner Basil Katcheves | Art Unit 3635 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-20 and 25-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-20 and 25-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The applicant has cancelled claim 6 in the amendment dated 2/16/06. Pending claims 1-3, 5, 7-20 and 25-32 are examined below.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 is drawn to a single laminated floorboard but then recites a positive relation to a plurality of integral connectors. The claim reads as though the connectors are separate for joining between two floorboards. Also, the claim is drawn to a second floorboard indicating a combination floor. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-20 and 25-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,763,643 to Martensson in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,497,837 to Nelson.

Regarding claims 1,15 and 26, Martensson discloses a laminated (fig. 2c: 3) rectangular floorboard (fig. 6) with integrated connectors (fig. 8: 2) with a vertical plane between upper edge connections (fig. 8: vertical edge of 3). Martensson also is capable of being locked together by angling the boards together from a generally vertical position. Martensson discloses the basic claim structure of the instant application but does not disclose specific long and short edge dimensions. Nelson discloses a floorboard (title) made from a width less than 10cm (column 2, lines 8-9) and a length less than 80 cm (column 1, lines 49-51). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Martensson by making a board of these dimensions as a design choice in order to fit into particular areas where available space is an important consideration. Martensson also discloses the boards as having opposing long edges, opposing short edges (fig. 6) and a top layer of a laminate (fig. 8: 1).

Regarding claims 2, 19, and 30, Martensson discloses the boards as being capable of inward locking (fig. 8: see point 22 and groove 21).

Regarding claim 3, Martensson discloses the boards as being capable of releasing upward angling, as in lifting one edge to free the opposite edge from its connection.

Regarding claims 5 and 31, Martensson discloses the use of a thermosetting resins for board surface layers (column 2, lines 10-11).

Regarding claims 7, 16, and 33-38, Martensson discloses the connector as being a separate part, integrated when installed, (fig. 8: 10) which projects beyond the edge and connects with the core portion (fig. 8: 5) of the board. The connector extending from all sides to create a flooring (fig. 6).

Regarding claims 8, 20, Martensson discloses a long edge having a projection (fig. 8: 22) and a short opposing edge having a groove (fig. 8: 21).

Regarding claims 9, 18, Martensson discloses the board as having a decorative wood pattern (fig. 6: 1). Martensson discloses the basic claim structure of the instant application but does not disclose specific length dimensions. Applicant fails to show criticality for specifically claimed dimensions, therefore it would have been an obvious design choice to use the dimensions such as specified in these claims.

Regarding claim 10, Martensson discloses a patterned floor made from the floorboards (fig. 5).

Regarding claims 11, 13, Martensson discloses two short sides connected together (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 12, Martensson discloses two boards connected by their short sides (fig. 6) as being mutually displaced.

Regarding claim 14, Martensson discloses a long edge of a block (fig. 6, see long side) coinciding with a union of two short edges (fig. 6: see short side joint intermediate with long edge), the short side edges being perpendicular to the long side edge. Also, Martensson discloses placing the boards in an order to create a square form (fig. 5).

Regarding claim 17, Martensson discloses the surface layer as being a laminate (fig. 8: 3). However, Martensson discloses the basic claim structure of the instant application but does not disclose specific surface layer dimensions. Applicant fails to show criticality for specifically claimed dimensions, therefore it would have been an obvious design choice to use the dimensions such as specified in these claims.

Regarding claims 25 and 27, Martensson discloses a floor made from locked rectangular floorboards (fig. 6) capable of being locked by inward angling (fig. 8: 21, 22) and by laterally sliding panels along joining a mirrored connector 10, the boards, when connected together, create a vertical plane between upper edges (fig. 8: vertical edge of 3 & fig. 2b: 2). Martensson also discloses the boards as connected long side to short side and short side to short side (fig. 6: see T shaped intersection of corners).

Regarding claim 28, Martensson discloses the boards as capable of being joined by inward angling (fig. 8: 21, 22).

Regarding claim 29, claim 29 is rejected for reasons cited in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Martensson discloses the boards as capable of being joined long side to long side, short side to short side, and long side to short side (fig. 6 and fig. 2b: 4 & 10).

Regarding claim 30 Martensson discloses the boards as capable of inward angling.

Regarding claim 32, Martensson discloses a flooring system having a plurality of rectangular boards (fig. 6), with integrated connectors that when joined together, their upper edges are on a vertical plane joined together (fig. 2c: 2), the floorboards are capable of connecting in a horizontal direction and a vertical direction with mirror board edge images (fig 2c). However, Martensson does not disclose specific dimensions of the sides. Nelson discloses a floorboard (title) made from a width less than 10cm (column 2, lines 8-9) and a length less than 80 cm (column 1, lines 49-51). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Martensson by making a board of these dimensions as a design choice in order to fit into particular areas where available space is an important consideration.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited patents listed on the included form PTO-892 further show the state of the art with respect to floor boards in general.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Basil Katcheves whose telephone number is (571) 272-6846. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot, can be reached at (571) 272-6777.


Basil Katcheves

BK

9/13/07

Primary Examiner AU 3635